

REMARKS

The specification is amended to correct two errors in translation. Claim 4 is amended to remove the phrase "for example...", and new Claim 13 is added to incorporate the limitation of that phrase. The dependency of Claim 5 is changed to provide proper antecedent basis for "the copper foil". Claims 7-12 are cancelled without prejudice, as the subject matter of those claims is being presented in a divisional application. Claims 1-6 and 13 remain for consideration in this application, with no claim previously allowed.

In the Specification

Turning first to page 5 of the specification, at line 24 the original German term "isolierschicht" was mistranslated as "insulating lever". The proper translation of that term is --insulating layer-- as shown in the corrective amendment.

Also on page 5, at line 35 the correct translation of the German term "sogenannten" is --so-called--. This corrective amendment is set forth above.

In the Claims

Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite because of the phrase "for example...". That phrase is removed from the claim, which should obviate the rejection as indefinite. New Claim 13 depends from Claim 4 and adds the specific element formerly the object of the "for example" phrase. The amendment to Claim 4 and the addition of Claim 13 are not considered to enlarge or diminish the scope of coverage of Claim 4 as previously presented.

Claims 1-6 stand rejected as anticipated by *Yang* (US 6,372,992). The Applicant respectfully traverses that rejection.

The rejection asserts that *Yang* (column 6, lines 1-67) discloses a flat flex cable having at least two electric conductors 12, 14 embedded in an insulating layer, and having a circuit layout 50 applied on the surface of the flat flex cable and connected to at least one of those conductors. The Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection mischaracterizes *Yang*. The "circuit layout 50" is a plurality of conductive traces on the upper surface of one insulating layer 18 (column 6, lines 45-47). Those conductive traces 50 are thus an embodiment or species of the conductors 12, 14 more generally depicted in the earlier Figs. 1-3 of *Yang*. Accordingly, the conductive traces 50 are the conductors 12-14, and *Yang* does not disclose a circuit layout applied to the surface of the cable or connected to any conductor of the cable 10. For that reason, *Yang* fails to anticipate Claim 1 and dependent Claims 2-6.

Furthermore, *Yang* fails to anticipate Claims 1 et al. because that reference does not disclose "at least one electric and/or electronic component (11) is arranged on the circuit layout" on the surface of the flat flex cable and connected to at least one conductor of the cable. The rejection as anticipated by *Yang* states in part that "at least one ... component (not shown) is arranged on the circuit layout 50" (emphasis added), and thus tacitly admits that *Yang* fails to disclose any such component. However, to anticipate a claim, a reference must teach every element of a claim, MPEP 2131. A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference. *Yang* fails this requirement of anticipation. For that further reason, Claims 1 et al. are not anticipated by *Yang*.

Claim 2 further characterizes the invention by reciting that the circuit layout (6) consists of a copper foil with low transverse strength. This circuit layout is applied on the surface of the flat flex cable, as recited in Claim 1. However, *Yang* has no circuit layer on the outer surface, and therefore *Yang* does not disclose any material for such a layer. *Yang's* disclosure of a "circuit layout" is limited to the conductive traces 50 embedded between the two insulating layers 18, 20 of *Yang's* composite structure 10.

Dependent Claim 3 characterizes the electronic components as connected to the circuit layout by means of conductive bonding. There are no electronic components disclosed in *Yang*, and the reference does not disclose anything similar. Thus, column 7, lines 23-40 mentions neither a "component" nor "conductive bonding", and the latter would be pointless due to the embedding of the conductors within the insulating layers 18, 20 according to *Yang*.

Claim 4, as well as new dependent Claim 13, states that the electronic components are covered with housing shells or by means of selective casting or a protective lacquer. Again, no electric or electronic components are mentioned, shown, or described by *Yang*. Therefore, that reference fails to disclose any cover for such components.

Claim 5 depends from Claim 2 and further characterizes the copper foil of that claim. However, that copper foil is the circuit layout applied on the surface of the flat flex cable. *Yang* does not disclose any copper foil on the surface of the FFC and, therefore, fails to disclose the specific recited structure or surface coating of the copper foil. Column 7, lines 58-62 of *Yang* deal only with the starting material of that reference, e.g., a laminate including an LCP film which is already covered with a copper layer and

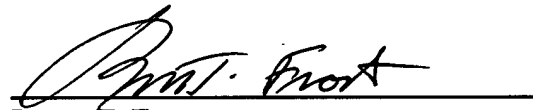
is then covered either by another layer or by a cover layer. Additionally, *Yang* does not disclose a copper layer having a cauliflower structure.

Turning to Claim 6, neither the term nor the technology of resistance welding is disclosed by *Yang*. The only hint that reference gives to the electrical connection of the (not shown) components is at column 8, lines 40-43, which refer to laser soldering and have nothing to do with the connection with an outer circuit with embedded conductors as in Claim 6.

The foregoing is submitted as a complete response to the Office Action identified above. The Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance and solicits a notice to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

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